

# farewell



Henry Dean – an exceptional facilitator, innovative thinker, listener and leader – is respected throughout the state for his skill in bringing competing interests together to develop solutions.

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## What project or accomplishment are you most proud of throughout your 30-year public service career?

“I’m honored and privileged to be a part of the public acquisition of over 1.5 million acres of environmentally sensitive land from Pensacola to the Keys through my work in Tallahassee, St. Johns and here in South Florida. And, I’m very proud of the successful recreational use programs. I feel strongly that land that’s paid for by the public should be available to be enjoyed by the public for fishing, hiking, hunting, bird watching – what have you. Most thank-you letters I’ve received over the years are to thank me for recreational land use. I’m proud of this accomplishment because that land will be off limits for development, protected for endangered species like the Everglades snail kite, used for water recharge and our recreational use programs.”

## Through your leadership, the District has achieved numerous accomplishments – what’s your secret to this success?

“TEAMWORK! It’s the team that works here. They made my job easy. We have an extremely creative and talented staff. When I first came here, I saw a lot of ‘stove pipes’ scattered throughout the District. My priority at that time was to make staff understand that we all wear the same color jersey with a common mission. We’re a team. It works!”

## You’ve been successful through many differing administrations throughout your 30-year career. How did you do it?

“Always try to be responsive, courteous and honest.”

## What will you miss the most about being executive director?

“The people – staff, the Governing Board and good friends I’ve made here.”

## What advice do you have for your successor, Carol Wehle, to continue with District successes?

“One, continue to concentrate on the idea of team building. Two, keep staff and supervisors well informed. Three, always try to recognize that every problem has a solution, and that solution is usually somewhere between two extreme positions. Carol Wehle inspires the staff. Carol will do a wonderful job in leading this agency to continued successes. I’m comfortable and confident that she will continue with the ongoing teamwork at this District, upholding the willingness to work together toward our common bond and common mission. We certainly hope to continue to earn trust and public support.”

## What are your future plans?

“It’s a secret! Initially, I plan to spend some time off with my wife and family at my home in St. Augustine. To get my mind off water during my free time, I like to read about quantum mechanics, as well as lift weights, do crossword puzzles and take walks on the beach.”

## Do you have any final thoughts?

“Thank you for this grand adventure. If I was given the opportunity to do it all over again, I would. My time here has helped me understand Florida’s environment better. We are the best water resources agency in the world. If we stay on path, we can only continue to succeed.”

Henry Dean has changed the face of South Florida for the better. His efforts ensure that this region will have a sustainable supply of quality water and flood protection, and that our natural resources will be preserved and protected for generations to come.

“Henry’s career-long dedication to public service has provided the entire state with a strong foundation for protecting its environmental and economic interests. Because of his leadership and vision, Florida is today meeting its commitment to the environment and restoring America’s Everglades.”

– FLORIDA GOVERNOR JEB BUSH

“When Henry came on board, the agricultural community invited him to visit. He never hesitated to come. He listened to their concerns, understood their concerns and would do whatever he could to address those concerns. He didn’t promise to fix everything, but he was realistic and would do whatever he could. He was accessible to the people and gave them a real comfort level that few, if any, from the water management district could ever accomplish in the agricultural community. I know Henry is going to be successful. He’s certainly going to be missed in South Florida.”

– MARY ANN GOSA  
DIRECTOR, GOVERNMENT & COMMUNITY AFFAIRS  
FLORIDA FARM BUREAU FEDERATION

“Henry is a very good people person. He has a very broad knowledge, a good vision of the overall picture. He’s able to pull in the various parties who are not always on the same page. He is very good at facilitating all the parties for a common goal. Henry is very interested and confident, and is willing to talk and listen to everyone on all sides. He never let his position of authority interfere with his willingness to listen to anyone’s input. This is one of his greatest strengths. As a result, he hasn’t rejected any information. He’s made very good decisions.”

– BOB MORESI  
PROJECT MANAGER/SENIOR HYDROGEOLOGIST  
BLACK & VEATCH CORP.

“I’m grateful for Henry’s honesty, pleasant attitude, sense of humor and, most of all, his accessibility. He treated me with respect – never frivolous or malicious. We have had disagreements on complicated, controversial and sometimes contentious issues. But, nobody who is executive director is a ‘free agent’ because of the Governing Board structure of the Water Management District. In spite of this, I’m grateful for Henry’s accessibility and information I get from the board he serves.”

– ROSA DURANDO  
ENVIRONMENTALIST, LONG-TERM  
CONSERVATION CHAIR OF AUDUBON OF THE  
EVERGLADES, PALM BEACH COUNTY



Carol Ann Wehle

“I won’t even try to fill Henry’s shoes. But, I pledge to continue our work with consistency and continuity.”

## Carol Wehle to Assume Executive Director Role

With Henry Dean’s departure, the South Florida Water Management District Governing Board unanimously selected Carol Wehle, a civil engineer with the agency since 2001, as the next Executive Director. Promoting her from Assistant Executive Director to the top leadership post makes her the first woman to head a regional water management district in Florida.

“I won’t even try to fill Henry’s shoes. No one can be Henry,” Wehle said. “But, I truly honor, embrace and support the values of water resource protection that Henry embraces. I pledge to continue our work with consistency and continuity.”

Wehle has extensive water resource knowledge, legislative expertise and management experience. In addition to her service in South Florida, she spent nine years with the St. Johns River Water Management District. Her public service experience also includes a four-year term as a Brevard County Commissioner and five years on the Sebastian Inlet Tax District Commission. She has also worked as a civil engineer for private-sector firms and was a state-certified building contractor.

“Carol Wehle is a stellar example of the top-notch quality of employees working at the District,” said Governing Board Chair Kevin McCarty. “The Board has the utmost confidence in her ability to continue the positive momentum in meeting, and exceeding, our resource management mandates and responsibilities.”

She received her engineering degree from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.